

## **Better One Man**

John 11:46 – 12:11

by Don Falkos

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The Sanhedrin met in a frantic discussion of the followers Jesus was gaining. "He performs many miraculous signs. What if his support grows large enough that he starts a revolution? Then the Roman army will come and destroy both our Temple and our nation."

Caiaphas the high priest said, "You idiots! Don't you realize it's better for one man to die than for the whole nation to be destroyed?" Little did he realize the prophetic nature of his comment. Jesus would die, not only for Israel, but to bring together and unite all the children of God from all around the world.

From then on, the Jewish leaders plotted to kill Jesus. So Jesus left the public eye and went out to a place near the desert.

As the time for Passover approached, people arrived in Jerusalem and wondered, "Will Jesus come for Passover?"

Jesus went to Bethany. As he and Lazarus and some others were eating dinner, Mary took some expensive perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet, wiping his feet with her hair. The fragrance of the perfume filled the house.

Judas Iscariot, one of the disciples, objected, "That perfume was worth a year's wages. It should have been sold and the money given to the poor." Not that he cared for the poor. He was a thief! He was in charge of the money bag and often stole from it.

Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She has done this in preparation for my burial. You will always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me."

People flocked to Bethany to see Jesus and Lazarus, the man Jesus had raised from the dead. Because of him, many people believed in Jesus. So the chief priests decided to kill Lazarus, too.